

Executive Registry

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MEMORANDUM FOR: Director of Central Intelligence**SUBJECT : Planning by WH Division to Cope with Kidnaping**

1. This memorandum is for information only.
2. Attached is a narrative account of the Western Hemisphere Division's efforts to cope with the kidnaping threat in Latin America and to protect its officers in the field. I have attached this particular account in response to your concern because it describes the efforts of the Area Division most affected by the kidnaping threat.
3. The attached paper goes into the origins of the problem, the revolutionary intent of the perpetrators, and the practical means by which we are trying to grapple with it. I think you will be interested to read here of the meshing together of the various Agency components as mutual efforts are made by various offices and officers to protect our people in the field. The paper describes efforts in the armoring of vehicles, weapons training, tradecraft, and the use of sirens and other gear (as well as the rejection of inapplicable gadgetry) as means to reduce the frequency of kidnaping. But there is, of course, no complete solution.
4. I wish to call your attention specifically to an ominous aspect to what is happening in Latin America, one going well beyond the risks of exposure and possible loss of life that the paper describes. This is the net effect of the coincidence of the East German publications fingering our people and what may be a developing disposition on the part of the terrorists to use those lists for targetting. If we assume that the KGB's Disinformation Bureau, directly and through the Bloc services, has worked for years to discredit and embarrass this Agency for the purpose of impeding its operations, and that Cuban support of revolutionary terrorist movements over the last decade has had at least Moscow's tacit support, then the effect of both is coming to be more than just the loss of some of our officers, which can now be expected. Without claiming that this has been the KGB design,

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its disinformation, falling on highly charged Latin soil, is increasingly limiting our freedom of operation. As this study makes clear, we are already circumscribed in certain Latin countries as to how we operate and how much we can operate. This state of affairs could spread to other countries and other areas.

/s/ Thomas H. Karamessines
Thomas H. Karamessines
Deputy Director for Plans

Attachment: a/s

cc: DDCI

ATTACHMENT

**THE KIDNAPING SITUATION IN LATIN AMERICA
AND EFFORTS OF THE WESTERN HEMISPHERE DIVISION
TO PROTECT ITS OFFICERS**

THE PROBLEM

Kidnaping is a well established terrorist tactic in Latin America. It is part of the Cuban-revolutionary doctrine of urban guerrilla warfare, essentially a low risk tactic which can obtain spectacular results, generate a great deal of international publicity for the terrorists' cause, and contribute substantially to left-wing psychological warfare.

Kidnaping is an acute problem today in those countries where Castro-backed insurgent movements are most viable, namely Uruguay, Guatemala, and Brazil and only to a slightly lesser degree in the Dominican Republic, Venezuela, and Chile. The other countries possess the potential for kidnaping.

Kidnaping is generally seen as a means by which terrorists obtain money to carry on revolution or obtain the release of prisoners but in actual practice kidnaping as part of urban terrorism is intended to discredit the government in power, cause foreign concern, and disrupt the normalcy of everyday living. Kidnaping is part of Regis Debray's revolutionary philosophy that a peaceful situation can be turned into a revolutionary one; it is specifically included as such in subversive publications, for example, Carlos Marighella's "Mini-Manual for Urban Guerrillas", now being distributed world-wide.

A knowledge of the purpose of kidnaping and the terrorists' intent is necessary to enable us to understand the limitations of action and counteraction in protecting our officers without aiding the terrorists' purpose. For example, any action which appears to be foreign intervention, such as the use of U. S. military equipment or personnel in rescue attempts, serves the kidnapers' political intent by showing the inabilities of the local government to cope alone with the situation.

The tactic of kidnaping has changed as its use has increased and the act has become both more deadly and of more immediate concern to the Agency. Until recently the victim was released unharmed but kidnaping is now more politically cynical and even homicidal. Since 1967 two Ambassadors (one American) have been killed and three United States military officers have been murdered, two in Guatemala and one in Brazil. A Public Safety Officer has just been murdered in Uruguay and numerous other kidnappings of local personalities have taken place, many fatal, and

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countless unsuccessful attempts have been made. Other foreign diplomats (German, Japanese, Paraguayan) have been kidnaped by terrorists in the last year and released in return for "political" prisoners, i. e., captured terrorists. As to the local populations, the statistics contain long lists of obscure people kidnaped or killed for reasons not known, most of them caught up in urban terrorism.

As these events unfolded, it quickly became clear that the terrorists were trying to make a target specifically of CIA officers.

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